

Book Reviews

HERNIA REPAIR WITHOUT DISABILITY—Second Edition—Irving L. Lichtenstein, MD, Fellow, American College of Surgeons, International College of Surgeons and American Association for the Advancement of Science; Diplomate, American Board of Surgery, Pan American Medical Association and National Board of Medical Examiners; Associate, World Medical Association; Founder and Director of the Lichtenstein Hernia Institute. Ishiyaku EuroAmerica, Inc, 11559 Rock Island Ct, St Louis, MO 63043, 1986. 250 pages, \$85.

To document the prohibitive cost of the surgical repair of hernias and detail a solution makes Dr Lichtenstein's monograph valuable. To submit research data supporting less costly yet better surgical methods and results makes this book outstanding. To add innovative illustrations that are an integral part of the monograph plus quotations that are collectable makes the publication a "must reading" for surgical residents and should be part of the library of one who has "done hernias for years." Delightful, helpful, and impressive, it has changed my surgical approach and thinking to hernia repair.

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PATHOGENESIS OF SKIN DISEASE—Edited by Bruce H. Thiers, MD, Associate Professor of Dermatology, Medical University of South Carolina, and Chief, Dermatological Service, Veterans Administration Medical Center, Charleston, South Carolina, and Richard L. Dobson, MD, Professor and Chairman, Department of Dermatology, Medical University of South Carolina, Charleston. Churchill Livingstone Inc, 1560 Broadway, New York, NY 10036, 1986. 623 pages, \$95.

Pathogenesis of Skin Disease is a compilation of 40 chapters presented in 13 overall sections and covering 623 pages excluding the index. As the name implies the primary purpose of this volume is to present the state of the art as to the pathogenesis or known mechanisms for the development of a large number of skin diseases. In order to achieve this goal the editors have enlisted the aid of 67 authors including themselves. The 13 sections include (1) allergic and eczematous diseases such as immediate and delayed hypersensitivity responses and atopic dermatitis, (2) pilosebaceous disorders including acne, androgenic alopecia, and alopecia areata, (3) the papulosquamous diseases psoriasis and lichen planus, (4) vitiligo, (5) bullous disorders including pemphigus, pemphigoid dermatitis herpetiformis, herpes gestationis, and acquired epidermolysis bullosa, (6) an extensive eight-chapter discussion of the "connective tissue" and vascular disorders ranging from lupus erythematosus to erythema multiforme, (7) granuloma annulare and sarcoidosis, (8) the porphyrias and hyperlipidemias, (9) infectious diseases, which only covered the acquired immune deficiency syndrome, (10) an extensive section on neoplastic disease with an excellent chapter on Kaposi's sarcoma, (11) certain inherited disorders such as the ichthyoses, epidermolysis bullosa, Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome, and xeroderma pigmentosum, (12) discussion of psychocutaneous problems and (13) wound healing.

Though the use of large numbers of authors leads to irregularity in the presentations, the general presentation is excellent. The name of the volume is misleading in that it does not cover the pathogenesis of skin diseases in general or in all of the parts. Perhaps the inclusion of the pathogenesis of pigmentary disorders other than vitiligo and infectious diseases other than AIDS would have been expected.

However, despite the authors' prediction that the text would be out of date by the time it was published, this book does provide an excellent basis for understanding the new information that will be available to us in the near future on many cutaneous diseases. Since the book is concerned primarily with pathogenesis, it will be of most value to students and practitioners of dermatology. It should be included in the libraries of all dermatology training programs and should be available to practitioners who wish to understand more about the diseases examined. It is not of much practical value to the primary care physician, however, and most likely will be used only by the dermatologic community.

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ABORTION, MEDICINE AND THE LAW—3rd Edition—Edited by J. Douglas Butler, DPM, JD, Dept of Orthopaedics, Howard County General Hospital, Columbia, Maryland, and David F. Walbert, JD, Adjunct Professor of Law, Emory University, Atlanta. Facts On File Publications, 460 Park Ave South, New York, NY 10016, 1986. 755 pages, \$40.

For the past 20 years in this country abortion has been subjected to protracted public debate and intense medical scrutiny. The concept of legal termination of pregnancy upon request has touched deeply held principles

concerning autonomy of women and human rights for the unborn. Our society has become polarized around an issue that has led to intense legislative debate in state capitols and in Washington, DC, as well as violence in and around medical facilities.

Not surprisingly, 80% of this book is directed at the judicial and legislative war of words that has been waged and that will continue for the foreseeable future. The Supreme Court decisions in *Roe versus Wade* and *Doe versus Bolton* are presented in full as a part of the appendices, which also include the verbatim testimony before the United States Senate on the Human Life Bill in 1981. Among the legal essays is a chapter on the issue of minors' rights, which is of particular importance to citizens of California because of the recent passage of a parent notification statute, which has yet to be implemented. Interestingly, a Minnesota court has recently overturned a similar bill of long standing, noting that its primary result had been to delay abortion procedures.

The medical aspects of abortion are covered by recognized authorities. Most thorough is a chapter on prenatal diagnosis and selective abortion. With the advent of chorionic villus sampling, earlier diagnosis of genetic problems will allow terminations of pregnancy in the first trimester when morbidity is low and vacuum aspiration more acceptable than second trimester procedures. It is likely that genetic abortions will represent an increasing number of the approximately 1.2 million abortions reported yearly in the United States.

Finally, ethical concepts are detailed, with arguments for and against legal abortion.

This book is a valuable work for any library and for the personal collections of those interested in reproductive rights, especially because primary sources of information are quoted verbatim.

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CASARETT AND DOULL'S TOXICOLOGY—THE BASIC SCIENCE OF POISONS—Third Edition—Edited by Curtis D. Klaassen, PhD, Professor of Pharmacology and Toxicology, University of Kansas Medical Center; Mary O. Amdur, PhD, Senior Research Scientist, Energy Laboratory and Department of Applied Biological Sciences, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, and Associate Professor of Toxicology, Harvard School of Public Health, Boston, and John Doull, MD, PhD, Professor of Pharmacology and Toxicology, University of Kansas Medical Center, Kansas City. Macmillan Publishing Company, 866 Third Ave, New York, NY 10022, 1986. 932 pages, \$49.95.

A good toxicology text is hard to find! Interest is growing in acute and occupational toxicology, which is often covered only briefly in sections of pharmacology texts. Other textbooks on the subject often focus only on the clinical side and do not provide sufficient basic information. The third edition of this classic text gives the reader much more in-depth information from multiple authors dealing with most but not all areas of modern toxicology. There are major new chapters on biotransformation of toxicants and toxic responses of the immune system, the cardiovascular system, the skin, and the eye. In addition, there are new sections on the toxic effects of plants, analytical toxicology, and regulatory toxicology.

The overall framework of this book is both an asset and a liability. The text is divided into five units: General Principles, Systemic Toxicology, Toxic Agents, Environmental Toxicology, and Applications, and while it does not lend itself readily to answering clinical questions, it does give a much more in-depth view than the other clinical texts. The three primary editors have done an excellent job in editing, giving the text a uniform style. It can be frustrating to read certain parts of the text that are placed in small print and provide very detailed reviews. For the most part the chapters from the second edition, published in 1980, have been updated. Although many of the authors are the same, there are new authors who have added substantially to the importance of this text. Most of the chapters are authoritative and thorough.

It is clear that this textbook is an adjunct to courses in pharmacology and toxicology. It will also be useful to scientists with particular interest in the discipline of toxicology. Since approximately one third of the chapters in this edition have been rotated and broadened, the text is quite up to date and thorough. There is no doubt that this book is a valuable addition for those with an interest in the basic science of poisoning; toxicology.

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